IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OCT 1 8 2000

In re Applicants:

Reinhold NUTZ, JR.

Filed: July 17, 2000

Serial No: 09/617,168

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS

FOR MAKING CARBON

BLACK

Art Unit: 1764

Examiner: Unknown

Attorney Docket: Serie 5379

CG 12/20

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination of the merits of the above-identified U.S. patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b), please first amend the application as follows

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the Cross Reference to Related Application as follows:

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to provisional application No. 60/199,554, filed April 25, 2000, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.